II. BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting of the Commision was held at the Commissioner's Office in the afternoon of the 12th January, 1979 with Dr. P. C. Chunder, President of the Indian Historical Records Commission in the Chair. As the President had to leave in the middle of the Session to attend to some other urgent business, the second half of the session was, on the nomination of the President, conducted by Prof. G. M. Moraes.

(i) Motion of Condolence

Before taking up any other item of business, a motion of condolence was moved from the Chair. Dr. P. C. Chunder stated that the members of the Commission were aware of the sad loss to the world of history as also to the Commission, by the demise of some very distinguished and noted historians who had been associated with the Commission at one time or the other namely (1) Prof. Rushbrook Williams, University of Allahabad, Allahabad, U. P. (2) Dr. B. P. Saksena, Allahabad University, Allahabad, U. P. (3) Dr. D. Awasthi, Ravi Shankar University, Raipur, M. P. and (4) Dr. G. D. Patel, Chief Editor, "Gujarat Gazetteers" and incharge of the archives department of the State. The Chair accordingly moved the following resolution of condolence :

Resolution I : "The Members of the Indian Historical Records Commission assembled at Aurangabad for the 46th Session of the Commission deeply mourn the death of Prof. Rushbrook Williams, Dr. B. P. Saksena, Dr. D. Awasthi and Dr. G. D. Patel and resolve that sincere condolence of the Commission be conveyed to the next of their kin".

While passing the resolution the members stood up in silence for one minute.

(ii) Discussion on Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report presented earlier at the inaugural session, was then taken up for discussion. Dr. Raghubir Sinh, Prof. A. R. Kulkarnie, Prof. Mohd Yasin, Dr. M. S. Jain and Shri M. V. S. Prasada Rau took part in the discussion. Dr. S. N. Prasad, Secretary of the Commission responsed and clarified the points raised by them during the discussion.

The Secretary's Report was then unanimously adopted.

(iii) Review of the action taken on previous Resolutions and Recommendations of the Commission

Conspectus of action taken on the resolution was noted by the members. No discussion took place.

(iv) Resolutions by the Members :

A. Preservation of important newspapers in the Central/State Archives

(1) Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

"Resolved that at least two sets of important Newspapers (under publication or out of publication) be centralised in Central/State Archives for their use as contemporary source material.

It is further resolved that every archival organisation should subscribe on regular basis important Newspapers in English and in other languages popular in their region and such papers for preservation should be kept intact and no clipping should be done for whatsoever purposes.

Also resolved that where old copies of Newspapers are not available, the Central/State archival organisations should purchase from the available sources or on transfer from Government Offices if they have".

Explanatory Note : The importance of Newspapers as a source of information of important events/incidents/occurences as well as for their views on contemporary events/matters has been universally recognised. The news-items, the feature articles, letters to the editor or the editorials themselves speak of the mind and mood both of the contemporary Government and the people. In other words the programme, policy, lines of action proposed or adopted by the Government or the feeling and aspirations of the public are conveyed to the world through journalistic lenses and the filter glasses. It is for this reason that efforts are being made to preserve old issues of important Newspapers. For example, by Resolution V of the 30th Meeting (New Delhi, July, 1960) the Research and Publication Committee recommended that "the Union and the State Governments be requested to issue necessary instructions to the administrative Departments under them not to destroy the old newspapers, gazettes, books etc. in their libraries without consulting the officers-in-charge of Archives Offices". The same spirit is reflected in Resolution VI of the 37th (New Delhi October, 1966) Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, which recommended for the preservation of the volumes of all important newspapers and periodicals publish d from Goa whether they be still current or defunct. But there is not a clear cut policy resolution for the centralisation of the collection of important newspapers at one place, (i.e. archival repositories) on permanent basis for use by research scholars. It is, therefore, necessary that a uniform policy be adopted for centralisation of atleast two sets of important newspapers in archival organisations so that if for one reason or other one set becomes unworkable the other is readily available for use. Moreover, these should not be damaged by cutting and removing any part of any particular issue for any sort of reference work. If the archival organisation is not subscribing either current newspaper or does not possess back issues either of the current or defunct papers, necessary funds should be provided to fill up the gaps.

Standing Committee's views : Preservation of newspaper files and clipping do not come, strictly speaking, under the purview of Archive institutions. There are various research institutions, libraries etc. which preserve the important newspapers. Besides, the newspaper offices themselves maintain backfiles.

Proceedings : The resolution was discussed and after considering the views of the Standing Committee, the mover agreed that the resolution might be dropped.

B. Publication of a compendium of the Indian Historical Records Commission Resolutions

(2) Resolution by Shri Tara Sharan Sinha

"Resolved that a compendium of all the Resolutions approved by the Indian Historical Records Commission in its past sessions be published for